

New Duck Stamps Take Off June 29

The 2012-2013 Duck Stamps will be issued as part of a First Day of Sale on Friday, June 29 at 10 a.m. at the BassPro Shops retail outlet in Hampton, Va.

Joseph Hautman, an artist from Plymouth, Minn., won the design contest with an acrylic painting of a single wood duck. This is his fourth win, previous designs being used for the 1992-1993, 2002-2003 and 2008-2009 Federal Duck Stamps. His brother Bob has won the Federal Duck Stamp twice previously, for the 1997-1998 and 2001-2002 stamps. Their brother Jim is the current Federal Duck Stamp artist, having won last year and three previous contests. Among them, the three brothers have won the contest 10 times.

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as Duck Stamps, are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They are not valid for postage.

Waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase and carry the current Duck Stamp. Conservationists, stamp collectors and others can also purchase the stamp in support of habitat conservation. Ninety-eight percent of the proceeds from the Duck Stamp go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which supports the purchase of acres of wetlands for inclusion into the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Since 1934, sales of Federal Duck Stamps have helped to purchase



nearly six million acres of wildlife habitat for the Refuge System. To date, Duck Stamp funds have been used to acquire habitat at hundreds of refuges in nearly every state. There are 555 national wildlife refuges spread across all 50 states and U.S. territories. A current Duck Stamp may also be used for free

admission to any national wildlife refuge open to the public.

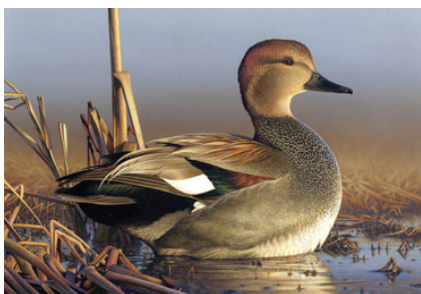
The 2012-2013 Federal Junior Duck Stamp, based on a painting of a northern pintail by 17-year-old Christine Clayton of Sidney, Ohio, also will go on sale June 29 at the BassPro Shop in Hampton, Va. Shown here is the winning design before it was converted into a stamp.

In 1989, the first Junior Duck Stamps were produced. Junior Duck Stamps are now the capstone of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Junior Duck Stamp environmental education program, teaching students across the nation "conservation through the arts." Revenue generated by the sales of Junior Duck Stamps funds environmental education programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two territories (American Samoa and the Virgin Islands).

Today, many states also issue their own versions of duck stamps. In some states, the stamps are purely a collector's item, but in others, the stamps have a similar role in hunting and conservation as federal duck stamps. For more information on all previous Federal and State Duck and Conservation stamps, go to *M&S* advertiser www.shduck.com.

The Runners-up

There were a total of 190 entries in this year's two-day competition, with 32 entries making it through to the final round of judging. Adam Grimm of Burbank, S.D., placed second with his oil painting of a single gadwall. Grimm is also a previous Federal Duck Stamp Contest winner. His art appeared on the 2000-2001 Federal Duck Stamp.



Richard Clifton of Milford, Del., took third place with an acrylic painting of a pair of mallards. Clifton won the 2006 Federal Duck Stamp Contest and his winning art appeared on the 2007-2008 Federal Duck Stamp.



In the Junior Duck stamp competition Matthew Messina of Avon, Conn., took second place with an oil painting depicting a single wood duck. Third place went to Hyun Wang of Ca. for his rendition of a pair of hooded mergansers.

Duck stamp contest winners are not compensated for their designs, but do benefit financially through the sale of prints and other products. The Junior

Duck Stamp Contest winner receives \$5,000. The second place winner receives \$3,000, the third-place winner receives \$2,000 and the Conservation Message winner receives \$500.